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A shared mission: U.S. Navy members visit Los Alamos

During Santa Fe Navy Week, active duty Navy members visited LANL



Navy sailors visit the Bradbury Science Museum during Santa Fe Navy Week.

During the week of Veteran's Day (Nov. 8–11), Santa Fe was full of something we don't see a lot here in the high desert — sailors! In honor of Santa Fe Navy Week, sailors and personnel from a number of U.S. Navy vessels, commands, and other programs visited Northern New Mexico to give residents an opportunity to learn about the U.S. Navy and its importance to national security. On Nov. 8, the Associate Laboratory Directorate of Weapons Production (ALDWP) invited a group of the U.S. Navy visitors up to Los Alamos to honor our shared mission.

Visitors arrived at the Bradbury Science Museum on Monday afternoon. The group of 11 included sailors and junior officers from the USS *Santa Fe* (SSN-763), led by its Commanding Officer (CO), Commander **Matt Pianetta**, as well as Rear Admiral (RDML) **Christopher Engdahl**, Commander Expeditionary Strike Group 7 / Task Force 76 and support staff.

The USS *Santa Fe* (SSN-763) is a Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine, part of a class of nuclear-powered submarines foundational to the U.S. Navy's submarine force, homeported in San Diego, CA. Although the *Santa Fe* is not an SSBN that would carry nuclear weapons, many of the visiting crew members have had past (and potentially future) assignments on ballistic missile boats.

An introduction to the Lab mission

Bradbury staff members and **Larry Daugherty** (AO-OFFICE), who coordinated the event, welcomed the group before they attended lively presentations from LANL employees.

“The Weapons Production mission in a single word: deterrence. What we do is deter,” Daugherty said as he introduced the Navy visitors to the work of the Lab’s Weapons Programs.

Visitors then watched the short film on the Manhattan Project, “*Racing Towards Dawn*,” followed by an introduction to nuclear weapons by TA-55’s seasoned and humorous instructor, **Drew Kornreich** (E-2). **Mike Port** (NSIS) then gave a high-level overview of the Laboratory and shared information about its Global Security program.



USS Santa Fe Commanding Officer Matt Pianetta peruses the Bradbury.

Painting the bigger picture

One reason for the visit was to give the sailors an introduction to the Laboratory so they can learn more about the nuclear enterprise.

“I remember my time on active duty in the Navy; I didn’t have a good understanding of where nuclear weapons came from or much about the nuclear enterprise,” said Daugherty. “It’s not something you’re typically exposed to as a young officer.”

A win-win for the future

Daugherty also discussed the Lab's expanded mission and increased hiring, noting that the Lab's national security mission makes it a natural progression for those transitioning from military service. David Dooley (ALDWP) and Dan Mack (ALDPI) gave a personal brief to RDML Engdahl about LANL's current tasking and veteran hiring initiatives.

"There's always something for a military member here at Los Alamos because of your leadership and practical experience," said Port, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel.

Daugherty says retiring sailors would not only be great additions to the Lab's workforce, but could also end up as nuclear policymakers and become future customers. Sharing awareness increases appreciation for work at the Lab and paves the way for future partnerships, making the event a win-win.

ALDWP would like to thank Larry Daugherty for his coordination of the event, Jen Olson and the Bradbury staff for their support, and all of the U.S. Navy members who took the time to visit Los Alamos.

Learn more about the Lab's relationship with the U.S. Navy:

[What's on board now](#): Los Alamos-designed warheads currently on Navy subs

[Envisioning the W93](#): The future of the Navy's deterrent

[Salt Life](#): Navy vet-turned-DARHT employee

Poll Results

Which of the following is NOT a U.S. Navy vessel named for a location in New Mexico?

- USS Bernalillo County
- **USS Bandelier**
- USS Valencia
- USS Pecos
- All of the above

According to the New Mexico Navy League, there have been more than 80 vessels named for New Mexico locations in U.S. Navy history!





